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February 16, 2006 LB 478, 856A

SENATOR CUDABACK: LB 856A does advance. (Visitors introduced.) We go to now Select File, Mr. Clerk, LB 478.

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 478 is on Select File. It has been discussed as late as February 13. When the Legislature left the bill, Senator Cornett had pending AM1810 as an amendment to the bill. Senator Chambers had moved to amend with FA448. So both Senator Cornett and Senator Chambers' amendments are pending. (Legislative Journal pages 142 and 672, respectively.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: We are on FA448, amendment to AM1810, as the Clerk stated. Senator Chambers, your light is first.

SENATOR CHAMBERS: Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I don't know why I do this, as I said the other day. But this is an amendment which would help Senator Cornett's bill, and I don't like her bill at all. I like her, but I'm not going to support her bill. There are others who like her, and for that reason and that reason alone, will support her bill. This bill should have never gotten out of the Revenue Committee. It is not sound policy, it discriminates between categories of veterans, it suggests that some are more worthy than others, or some are less worthy than these elitists. So the bill does not deserve to be enacted into law. The state of Nebraska owes these people nothing. They are retirees and receiving money from the taxpayers already, by way of their retirement. Then they get these special jobs, they're high paying, which allows them to double dip. The run-of-the-mill military retiree would not have the clearances that this bill discusses, so they wouldn't be in a position where part of their retirement benefit is going to be exempted from taxation, and maybe they need it more, because they don't have one of these plush jobs on top of their retirement. So you're giving a certain group elitist status which is unjustified. I say that to make it clear that I dislike the bill and why, and I'm going to have plenty of opportunities to go into more detail. But I wanted to say that first, so nobody would misunderstand my offering of this amendment. What this amendment would do is say, on page 7, line 26, after the number "6," insert the following: "as such provisions existed on the effective date of this act." That is the language that we use whenever a federal enactment is going